

## Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 SP-02 AF-06 ARA-06 NEA-09

RSC-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 AGR-05

AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 LAB-04 CAB-02 DODE-00

DOT-00 FAA-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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APPROVED BY IO:WBBUFFUM

S/P:WKONTOS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 017162

MONTREAL FOR ICAO, PARIS ALSO FOR NESCO,

ROME ALSO FOR FODAG, VIENNA FOR UNIDO

CONFIDENTIAL

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UN, AORG

SUBJECT: GENEVA GROUP CONSULTATION, FEBRUARY 4-6;

PREVENTING POLITICIZATION OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

1. ACTION REQUESTED. WE WISH TO USE FORTHCOMING MEETING AS OPPORTUNITY TO ENCOURAGE MORE INTENSIVE CONSIDERATION AND COORDINATION BY LIKEMINDED WESTERN COUNTRIES OF PROBLEM OF GROWING THREAT OF POLITICIZATION OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND CONSEQUENT DETERIORATION IN THEIR ABILITY TO CONCENTRATE ON BASIC TECHNICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL MISSIONS FOR WHICH THEY WERE ESTABLISHED. EMBASSIES ARE REQUESTED TO HOLD DISCUSSION OF POINTS CONTAINED IN THIS CABLE AT EARLIEST CONVENIENCE WITH SENIOR FONOFF OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH UN AFFAIRS INCLUDING AS APPROPRIATE THOSE WHO MAY BE ATTENDING GENEVA CONSULTATIONS. WE HOPE OFFICIALS WILL HAVE MOST OF WEEK OF JANUARY 27-31 TO CONSIDER THESE ISSUES WHILE THEY ARE PREPARING FOR MEETING IN GENEVA. PLEASE REPORT ANY INITIAL REACTIONS TO DEPT AND INFO GENEVA. IO ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM PLANS TO ATTEND GENEVA CONSULTATION AND TO INTRODUCE DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT.

2. BACKGROUND. WE HAVE BEEN INCREASINGLY CONCERNED WITH GROWING INJECTION OF CONTENTIOUS POLITICAL ISSUES THROUGHOUT UN SYSTEM. IN OUR OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF UN'S VALUE, WE

HAVE ATTACHED PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO CAPABILITY OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES TO PERFORM ESSENTIAL TECHNICAL FUNCTIONS WHICH ARE OF VALUE TO ENTIRE WORLD COMMUNITY AND WHICH REFLECT CONCEPT OF INTERDEPENDENCE. IT THEREFORE PARTICULARLY ALARMING TO US WHEN TYPE OF POLITICAL STRUGGLE WE HAVE NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH UNGA SPREADS TO SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND ABSORBS INORDINATE AMOUNT OF TIME AT GENERAL CONFERENCES AND EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS, DETRACTING FROM ABILITY OF PARTICIPANTS TO FOCUS ON ESSENTIAL WORK. SHOULD THESE TRENDS CONTINUE, CONSEQUENCES FOR US, AND PERHAPS OTHERS, MIGHT NOT BE MERELY GREATER DEGREE OF ANNOYANCE OR FRUSTRATION BUT COULD INCLUDE SOME STEPS OF DISASSOCIATION. ACTION OF U.S. CONGRESS IN LEGISLATING AGAINST U.S. CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNESCO, PENDING RECTIFICATION  
CONFIDENTIAL

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TION OF ABUSES, MUST BE BORNE IN MIND. IN SUGGESTING THAT GENEVA GROUP PARTICIPANTS INTENSIFY STUDY AND COOPERATION REGARDING THIS PROBLEM, WE ARE NOT PROPOSING THAT GROUP BECOME TACTICAL NUCLEUS FOR COMBATTING LDOS ON INDIVIDUAL POLITICAL ISSUES; RATHER WE ARE SEEKING TO IDENTIFY EFFECTIVE MEANS TO FURTHER GROUP'S SHARED BASIC INTEREST IN AMELIORATING CURRENT TRENDS AND WORKING TO PRESERVE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AS BODIES WHICH CAN CONCENTRATE ON THEIR ESSENTIAL SUBSTANTIVE TASKS AS FREE AS POSSIBLE FROM DISTRACTION AND EXTRANEIOUS POLITICAL CONFRONTATION. WE EXPECT THAT THIS GENERAL PROBLEM WILL INCREASINGLY BE DISCUSSED IN THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES THEMSELVES AND WE BELIEVE GENEVA GROUP COUNTRIES SHOULD CONSIDER WHEN AND IN WHAT WAYS IT WOULD BE BEST TO PURSUE PROBLEM AT

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES.

3. AT THIS STAGE OF OUR STUDIES WE HAVE IDENTIFIED FOUR GENERAL AREAS ON WHICH IT MIGHT BE ADVANTAGEOUS TO CONCENTRATE EFFORTS:

A. PROMOTING INTEREST IN SUBSTANTIVE WORK. ALTHOUGH IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO DOCUMENT IN SYSTEMATIC MANNER, WE THINK VERY GENERAL RELATIONSHIP MAY EXIST BETWEEN EXTENT TO WHICH AN AGENCY DOES WORK OF CLEAR VALUE TO ALL PARTICIPANTS, WITH ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF MOST MEMBERS, AND RELUCTANCE OF MEMBERSHIP TO JEOPARDIZE THAT WORK BY PURSUING EXTRANEIOUS POLITICAL CONTENTION (IAEA COULD BE EXAMPLE). THIS SUGGESTS THAT IT MAY BE IN OUR INTEREST TO FIND WAYS OF STIMULATING INVOLVEMENT OF LDC OFFICIALS IN BASIC SUBSTANCE OF VARIOUS AGENCIES. THIS COULD BE DONE IN CAPITALS OF LDC COUNTRIES BY SEEKING OUT LEADING TECHNICAL OFFICIALS INTERESTED IN WORK OF AGENCIES AND ATTEMPTING TO INVOLVE THEM MORE ACTIVELY IN PLANNING AND DISCUSSION FOR MAJOR MEETINGS. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THIS, OF COURSE, WILL NOT SERVE TO ELIMINATE PROBLEMS WHICH

ARE OFTEN CREATED AT AGENCIES NOT BY TECHNICAL OFFICIALS BUT BY POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVES. HOWEVER, GREATER INVOLVEMENT BY SENIOR TECHNICAL OFFICIALS COULD TO SOME EXTENT INCREASE FORCES OF RESPONSIBILITY AND MODERATION. AS BACKDROP TO THESE EFFORTS, IT COULD BE USEFUL TO REVIEW CONFIDENTIAL

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SYSTEMATICALLY WHAT ARE OUR MAIN PRIORITIES WITHIN EACH OF THE AGENCIES. THIS WOULD ASSIST NOT ONLY IN FOCUSING DISCUSSIONS WITH LDC OFFICIALS BUT ALSO IN OUR EFFORTS TO STEER AGENCY SECRETARIATS TOWARD MOST PRODUCTIVE WORK.

B. STRENGTHENING OF OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE SECRETARIATS OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. THERE IS, OF COURSE, WIDE VARIETY OF COMPETENCE AND FRIENDLINESS AS BETWEEN DIFFERENT SECRETARIATS AND, IN PARTICULAR, AS BETWEEN VARIOUS SECRETARIES GENERAL. WE HAVE FOUND THAT WHERE WE HAVE GOOD CONTINUING RELATIONSHIP WITH A SECRETARY GENERAL, AS WELL AS ADVANCE CONSULTATIONS BEFORE MAJOR MEETINGS, THIS OFTEN ADDS GREATLY TO CHANCES OF HANDLING DIFFICULT ISSUES IN A NON-CONTENTIOUS MANNER AND EVEN OF AVOIDING THEM ALL TOGETHER. FOR EXAMPLE, ADVANCE CONSULTATIONS WITH SECRETARIATS REGARDING AGENDAS CAN HAVE IMPORTANT IMPACT ON WHEN AND HOW A DIFFICULT ITEM IS HANDLED. WE WONDER WHETHER ALL MEMBERS OF GENEVA GROUP MIGHT NOT FIND IT ADVANTAGEOUS TO REVIEW EXTENT TO WHICH ITS PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES AT DIFFERENT SPECIALIZED AGENCIES HAVE ENDEAVORED MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACTS WITH SECRETARIATS IN ORDER ASCERTAIN WHERE ADDITIONAL EFFORTS MIGHT BE WARRANTED. IN VIEW OF IMPORTANCE WHICH WE

BELIEVE CONSULTATIONS WITH SECRETARIAT CAN HAVE, WE WOULD BE IN FAVOR OF AS MANY MEMBERS OF GENEVA GROUP AS WISH TO DO SO ENCOURAGING THEIR REPRESENTATIVES TO EXCHANGE ON A MORE REGULAR BASIS INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS.

C. REVIEW OF CHARTERS OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THEIR PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES. WE ARE BEGINNING OUR OWN STUDIES ON WHETHER THE OPERATING RULES AND PROCEDURES OF VARIOUS AGENCIES MIGHT BE IMPROVED. FOR EXAMPLE, COULD THERE BE BETTER RULES REGARDING INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS SO THAT IMPORTANT NEW ISSUES CANNOT BE SPRUNG ON DELEGATIONS WITH LITTLE NOTICE? WOULD IT BE DESIRABLE AND POSSIBLE TO TRY TO ARRANGE THAT CREDENTIAL, OBSERVER OR REPRESENTATION ISSUES BE PLACED TOWARD THE END OF AGENDAS OF MAJOR MEETINGS SO THAT THEIR CONSIDERATION WOULD NOT PREEMPT TOO MUCH OF THE TIME WHICH SHOULD BE DEVOTED TO SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES? WE WILL ALSO CONSIDER WHETHER IT CONFIDENTIAL

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MIGHT BE NOT ONLY DESIRABLE, BUT ALSO FEASIBLE, TO SEEK ANY CHARTER REVISIONS. IF WE ARE FORCED TO ACQUIESCE IN CHARTER AMENDMENTS ENLARGING THE SIZE OF GOVERNING

BODIES, WE MIGHT WANT TO BE PREPARED TO BARGAIN OUR ACQUIESCENCE IN E

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OTTAWA  
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